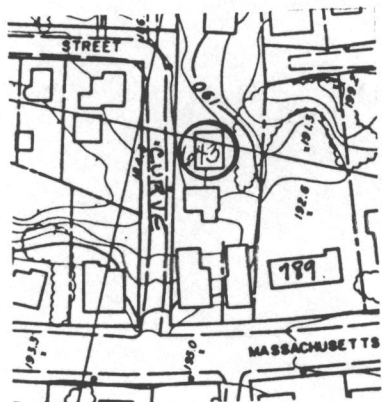


# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

0022000026

Boston N.

643

Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village) East Lexington

Address 5-7 Curve St.

Historic Name Williams/Clapp/Munroe House

Uses: Present Multi-Family Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction before 1798

Source Deeds, Direct Tax of 1798

Style/Form Georgian (altered)

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Fieldstone

Wall/Trim Vinyl Siding

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates)

Changed to a two-family house (at least by 1854)

Vinyl siding (date unknown)

Condition Fair

Moved ☐ no ☒ yes Date 1924-1926 (range)

Acreage 0.8-A.

Setting On a side street in a neighborhood of mid-to-late 19th-century houses

Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month / year) April 1998

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

5-7 Curve St. is one of several Georgian houses in Lexington that have been moved, but although the move was over 50 years ago, the house has since been sided and has lost most of its architectural integrity. The house is rectangular, 2½ stories, five-by-three bays, and side-gabled with two front end and one rear off-center chimneys. It is set on a fieldstone foundation, clad with vinyl siding and roofed with asphalt shingles. It now has a double center entrance and two small enclosed rear entries; windows are 2/2 double hung sash.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ see continuation sheet

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

This house was originally on Massachusetts Ave. around the corner from Curve St. where the one-story brick office building at 789 Massachusetts Ave. is now located. Although it has not been possible to establish exactly when the house was built or by whom, deed research indicates that it was owned in the early 19th century by the widow of John Williams. Since the Direct Tax of 1798 lists a house owned by John Williams and this house has a Georgian profile, it was very likely built in the 18th century. An antiquarian account of this part of Massachusetts Ave. in 1830 says the land had been part of the Thomas Fessenden estate but does not discuss this house specifically. Worthen describes it as the "Munroe-Fiske" or the "Fiske-Clapp" house, and it was owned by a Clapp and a Munroe. In 1829 John Williams' widow sold the house, then on eight acres, to Eli Robbins, an important businessman in East Lexington. Robbins built a new house just east of this one—the house now at 773 Massachusetts Ave. (MHC #219)—and in 1831 sold this house to William Clapp, a trader who died in 1842 and whose widow then sold it to Thaddeus Munroe. Thaddeus died in 1846 and this house was inherited by his son George, who built the large house now at 344 Lowell St. (MHC #662) and rented this one out. Beginning in 1854 the lefthand side was occupied by James Fiske and his daughters Emma and Carrie, the latter for many years a teacher at the Adams School in East Lexington. The righthand side had

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Bryant, Albert W. "Lexington Sixty Years Ago." *Proceedings of Lexington Historical Society* 2 (1900): 39-41.

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*Lexington Directory*. 1913, 1916, 1918, 1924, 1926.

Middlesex Registry of Deeds. Deeds. Cambridge, MA. 294: 20; 304: 536; 428: 514.

Worthen, Edwin B. Notes on buildings burned, torn down, and moved. "Houses" file, Worthen Collection. Cary Library, Lexington, Mass. #65, East Lex. 7.

———. *A Calendar History of Lexington, Massachusetts, 1620-1946*. Lexington, Mass.: Lexington Savings Bank, 1946. 116.

———. *Tracing the Past in Lexington, Massachusetts*. New York: Vantage Press, 1998. 50.

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
Lexington

Property Address  
5-7 Curve St.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
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	643
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## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

various tenants, among them Rufus Holbrook, who ran a stable, and the Laws family. Sometime between 1913 and 1915 Frederick T. Merrill and Calvin W. Childs opened a garage just west of this house on the same lot. The garage was replaced by a filling station sometime between 1924 and 1926 and at that time this house was moved to its present location on Curve St.